

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosure of the previously cited Hideki and Kazuyuki Japanese references. By this Amendment, however, four claims have been cancelled, one claim has been added, and the sole remaining independent claim, Claim 1, has been amended in a manner that is believed to provide patentable distinctions over the prior art.

Specifically, Claim 1 requires a sheet feeding apparatus wherein “when said openable and closable cover is opened, said regulating portion mounted on the openable and closable cover is brought into contact with said holding member so that said regulating portion is moved with respect to said openable and closable cover in a retracting direction from the feeding path.” As a result, according to the invention of Claim 1, a user’s operation for opening the openable and closable cover can retract the regulating portion from the feeding path with a simpler structure without using an electric power.

As for the cited references, they do not disclose the feature of “a regulating portion, which is mounted on the openable and closable cover and is movable” as also required in amended Claim 1. This feature of Applicant’s invention permits the user’s operation for opening the openable and closable cover to retract the regulating portion with a rather simple structure. In this regard it is noted that the Kazuyuki reference merely discloses a rather complicated construction for a regulating member 23 provided with a solenoid for holding a shutter in a standby position.

For these various reasons, Applicants believe that the claims as now presented are allowable over the prior art, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCIS_WS 2815007v1